

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A digital image reading apparatus
comprising:

reading means for optically reading an image
of a document to output digital image data;

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first setting means for setting a reading
rate in a given scanning direction to a desired
value;

an image memory for temporarily storing the
image data;

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second setting means for setting parameters
related to reading the image of the document based on
communication with an external apparatus; and

computation means for computing a total
amount of the image data from the parameters,

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wherein the first setting means sets the
reading rate based on the total amount of the image
data.

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2. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the first setting means resets the reading
rate to a value higher than a value to which the
reading rate is set when the total amount of the
5 image data is smaller than a storage capacity of the
image memory.

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3. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
further comprising transfer means for transferring
the image data from the image memory to the external
apparatus by communication means.

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4. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3,
20 wherein IEEE 1394 is employed as the communication
means.

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5. The apparatus as claimed in claim 3,
wherein SCSI is employed as the communication means.

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6. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein said first setting means sets the reading
rate by controlling a stepping motor involved in
10 scanning in the given scanning direction.

15 7. The apparatus as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the first setting means primarily sets the
reading rate on the basis of an available capacity of
said image memory.

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8. A digital image reading apparatus
comprising:

25 an optical reader optically reading an image

